implementing the Act is under consideration of the State Government. Information has also been received from Meghalaya that as there are no powerlooms in the State, the question of implementation of the said Act does not arise.

(c) The Government of India has issued categorical directions to all the States including Tamil Nadu for effective implementation of the Act.

(d) Yes, Sir. A suggestion has been made that officials of the Central Excise Department be also authorised and vested with the responsibility of implementation of the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985.

(e) Views of the Ministry of Finance have been sought in this regard.

Revival of close Cotton Mills

619. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of new cotton producing mills approved by Government, State-wise; and

(b) whether Government consider the revival of closed mills instead of approving new mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) As on 31.3.93 1142 Cotton/Man made Fibre Textile Mills were registered with Office of Textile Commissioner. A statement indicating number of Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile mills State-wise is annexed. (*See* below). Since the Textile Industry is delicensed, there are no restrictions on opening of new textile mills. Govt. has set up Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstructtion to evolve and manage rehabilitation package in respect of viable closed/sick mills.

Statement

State-wise number of cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills in the Country as on 31-3-93.

S. No.	State	Number of Mills (Total)
1	Andhra Pradesh	72
2	Assam	5
3	Bihar	9
4	Goa	1
5	Gujarat	121
6	Haryana	16
7	Himachal Pradesh	7
8	Jammu & Kashmir	2
9	Karnataka	46
10	Kerala	30
11	Madhaya Pradesh	31
12	Maharshtra	137
13	Manipur	1
14	Orissa	14
15	Punjab	25
16	Rajasthan	34
17	Tamil Nadu	485
18	Uttar Pradesh	55
19	West Bengal	39
	Union Territories	
1	Delhi	3
2	Pondicherry	9
	GRAND TOTAL :	1142

Rationalisation of Labour by West Bengal Units of NTC

620. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that West Bengal Units of NTC have rationalised labour agreeing to new produc-